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Libertarian candidate visits area

By Larry A. Sullivan
News Journal

The Libertarian movement is "galloping slowly" despite hostile election laws and an unfriendly press, the party's 1992 presidential candidate says.

Andre Marrou grabbed headlines in February when he carried the nation's first primary at Dixville Notch, a tiny New Hampshire town, but since has received little attention.

He spent Memorial Day in Pensacola as part of a campaign swing through the South.

During a meeting with the News Journal editorial board, Marrou called for:

Marrou

■ The repeal of laws that infringe on personal choice, including drug use and weapons possession.

■ Elimination of most government services and taxation.

■ Private enterprise to meet society's needs.

"Government by its very nature is evil," he said. "It is the only entity in our society that can use force without fear of retribution."

Marrou, 53, a Texas native and former Alaska state representative, wants the federal government trimmed to pre-World War II levels.

He drastically would scale back the military, pulling all U.S. troops out of foreign countries. Businesses would flock to buy domestic bases, he added.

Private charities can provide aid more efficiently, Marrou said.

"One dollar going to private charity does the work of five to 20 dollars going to government welfare," he said. "Any person can see if you're really serious about helping these poor people, you'll do away with government welfare and do it with private charity."

Marrou had few kind words for the prospective independent candidacy of Ross Perot, saying few in the grass-roots effort know — or care — what the Texas billionaire stands for.

He compared the groundswell of support for Perot to Nazi Germany.

"Ross Perot is attracting people on what the Germans used to call the Fuhrer principle — trust the leader, he knows what's best," Marrou said. "They want to believe this man is a savior as the Germans thought Hitler was a savior."